Welcome to our third curriculum newsletter this year. Thankyou to the parents who attended the parent teacher interviews that were held in the last week of Term 2. This term should be an busy one with lots of exciting things planned.

Inquiry

This term the Prep students will be involved in a SCIENCE based unit of inquiry titled: ‘Our Family, Our School, Our Community’

The Major Topic Understanding (Central Idea)

Our connections with our family, school and community shapes our identity and gives us a sense of belonging.

FOCUS QUESTIONS: (Lines of Inquiry)

- Where do we live?
- What is a Community? (family, school, neighborhood)
- What are the important places in our community?
- How do we belong and participate in our family, school and community?
- How do we care for our community?

‘Olympics’

The Major Topic Understanding (Central Idea)

The Olympic Games promotes good sports values and attitudes and understanding of different cultures. It has been in existence for over 100 years.

FOCUS QUESTIONS: (Lines of Inquiry)

- What sports are involved in the Olympic Games?
- Why do we have the Olympic Games?
- Who competes in the Olympic Games?
- What are the symbols and traditions of the Olympic Games?

100 Days of School

On Friday July 29th the Preps will have been at school for 100 days. The Preps have been counting the days by using unifix cubes, sticks, bundling, skip counting and finding the number on number charts everyday. We will be celebrating this event with a party. You are welcome to send a plate of food along to share with a 100 days theme. A note will be coming home soon with a detailed explanation.

Literacy

Independent Reading:

Children are continuing with their independent reading this term. We will be focusing on different text types and a variety of comprehension strategies. This term we will be looking at Procedural text which will be strongly connected to our Inquiry topic.

Writing:

The Writer’s Note book has been a successful feature of our writing program. Children are encouraged to continue to bring in photos or mementos to paste into their Writers Notebooks to assist them with the development of writing ideas.

Take Home Books:

A reminder that Monday is the regular day that take home books are changed in both classrooms. Please remember to record the titles of the books your child reads in their reading logs.

Your support at home is an invaluable part of your child’s learning. Listening to your child read and reading with and to your child provides them with an opportunity to practise the skills learnt at school.

Numeracy

This term we will be concentrating on:

- Counting and making groups to 20 and beyond
- Addition and subtraction
- Measurement
- 3D Shapes
- Patterns in numbers

These mathematics concepts and skills will be developed by using the problem solving strategies.

Library Books

Please encourage your child to bring their library books / bags to school. Children have library once a week with their classroom teacher.

Prep P Thursday
Prep M Wednesday

Reminders:

- Arriving at school on time is vital to your child’s learning. Learning time begins once your child steps into the classroom. Being on time develops good life habits. The school day begins at 8:45am.

- We encourage you to please wait for your child outside the building after school., as this assists us with a more orderly dismissal.

- Please clearly mark your child’s belongings jumpers jackets etc which is especially necessary during our swimming program. This will assist us when items go missing as a lot of time can be spent looking for lost clothing.
**Visual Arts**

Throughout Term 3 the children in Prep will continue to learn and explore new techniques and skills associated with the Visual Arts. The main focus for the term will be to relate artwork around the ‘Olympic Games’ and Literacy / Book Week. The children will discuss the Olympic Games and have the opportunity to create their own interpretations of Olympic sports and Rio through their artwork. Literacy / Book Week will provide inspirations for children’s artwork. The children will create artwork after a book is read to them. Following some discussion about the story and the illustrations, the children will be able to express their own ideas by using drawing, painting, printing, collage or modelling (sculpture) techniques.

Deb Morgan

**Music / Performing Arts**

Term 3 will formally introduce elements of music to our wonderful Prep students through a variety of different exercises and classroom performances. Dynamics, rhythm and melody will be explored verbally, visually and audibly. Accordingly, students will explore their ability to manipulate these elements of music with their voice, percussive and melodic instruments such as the keyboard.

In addition, students will be encouraged to ‘open up their ears’ and discriminate between a variety of ways in which these elements of music can be expressed. Students will also be introduced to Western notation as a means of composing their own rhythmic passages to be played over many songs. The songs we will cover throughout the term will include “If I Didn’t Have You”, “Oye Como Va”, “The Adventure Time Theme” and “You’ve Got a Friend in Me”. Be sure to have a listen!

We will also be determining a theme for the end of year concert and song ideas. Get your thinking caps on!

John Koutsonikolas

**Physical Education**

Students will continue to build and improve their motor skills through working in a wide range of fun and engaging activities. These activities will improve hand eye coordination, teamwork, agility, and fitness whilst learning to complete activities in a safe manner using the work space correctly. There will be a strong emphasis on students learning how to listen to instruction, follow a set of rules, and share equipment with others.

Steven Clark

**Sustainability:**

This year ‘Planet Ark Tree Day’ will be held on Friday July 29th. ANPS has been an active participant in the ‘Planet Ark Tree Day’ every year for the last 13 years, with all students being involved in planting a tree, shrub or plant, helping to improve our school’s environment. This year ANPS has designated the same day as an ‘Environmental Day’ as part of our school’s commitment to the environment and sustainability and in support of ‘Planet Ark Tree Day’.

Throughout this day, all students will be given the opportunity to plant a native tree in their grade’s designated area in the school’s gardens. Some grade 5/6 students will provide the rest of the school with support and guidance in planting and caring for trees.

During the day, students across the school will participate in classroom based activities with an Environmental focus. These activities will assist in the development of the students’ knowledge and appreciation of trees as a sustainable resource and the important role that trees have on our planet.

In support of our ‘Environmental Day’ (Friday July 29th) ANPS will be having a ‘Rubbish Free Day’. We request that all parents support this event by ensuring that children’s ‘snacks and lunch’ are packed in containers or materials which can either be recycled or reused with minimal or no rubbish going into the school bins.

It is hoped that the ‘Environmental Day’ will assist students in gaining a greater understanding and connection with their environment and the need to care for it.

We look forward with excitement, to the opening of the school “Vegetable garden” later in the term. ANPS was supported by Hobsons Bay Council in this project, which will further enhance our school ground and learning landscape.